

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for managing the connection of a plurality of devices connected to a digital interface by a digital interface, the plurality of devices including operation modes having a normal mode for performing a usual operation prescribed in the digital interface standard and a private mode for performing an operation which selectively controls an external device, the method comprising:
- (a) a user sending a command requesting an operation mode be established in a private mode to a first arbitrary device;
 - (b) establishing the private mode as the operation mode in the first device in response to the user's command;
 - (c) the first device identifying devices having the right to access related registers to store in the first device information relating to the identified devices;
 - (d) the first device determining whether there is a request for access to the related registers by a third-party device;
 - (e) determining whether the third-party device is included in the previously stored devices, if there is a request;
 - (f) the first device accepting the request of the third-party device if the third-party device is determined to be included in the devices stored in (e); and
 - (g) the first device returning an error code to the third-party device, which indicates that the first device cannot accept the request, if the third-party device is determined not to be included in the devices stored in (e).

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein (a) comprises:
2 (a-1) the user sending a request indicating that a bit stream output from the first device
3 and displayed on a second device intends to be managed privately to the second device; and
4 (a-2) the second device using a specific command to relay the request to the first
5 device.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the specific command is a command defined
2 in an audio-video control command transaction set for performing the control of audio/video
3 signals including a bit stream between digital devices connected through a digital interface on
4 a bus shared by the devices.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the command is defined in an audio-video
2 control command transaction set.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation mode is established on the basis
2 of the overall device, subunit, or a specific output plug, and in (b), a private mode is
3 established in the overall device, subunit, or a specific output plug.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein, in (c), if the first device establishes the
2 private mode in the overall device, identification is performed with regard to devices
3 pertaining to point-to-point or broadcast connection, while if the first device establishes the
4 private mode in a specific unit or a specific output plug, the identification is made with regard
5 to devices currently associated with subunit or output plug.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the request for access in (d) is a read
2 requesting for the third-party device to accept a bit stream

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the request for access in (d) is a lock
2 requesting to lock a bit stream output from the first device;

1 ~~sub~~ 9. The method as in any one of claims 1-8, wherein the digital interface conforms
2 ~~A3~~ to the IEEE 1394 standard.

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